



Shield Group and Aruba to host an International Symposium on Terrorism Preparedness

Gerald Dompig, former Deputy Commissioner of Police on the Aruba Police Force and now Director of the Shield Security Management Group announced that the company has organized a symposium on “International Counter Terrorism” to take place on Wednesday and Thursday, May 9 and 10, 2007, in the Westin Resort. The intense two-day program will also include a third day of “closed sessions” for certified law enforcement personnel.

The Shield Group, located in the Sun Plaza Complex, began their private security operations four months previously, upon Mr. Dompig retiring from the force. Since then, they can boast a staff of sixty employees that are providing high-level security services for resorts, restaurants, and businesses in Aruba. Dompig brings twenty-five years of experience as a police officer to his company, and is an alumnus of the NPA Police College in Apeldoorn, Holland, and the Police Staff College in Bramshill, UK. He has also supplemented his training by taking course with the FBI.

In the management positions of Shield Group he has placed a security manager with over fifteen years experience in industrial and retail security in both Holland and Aruba, and a former Marine Commander with over twenty years in the service of the Royal Dutch Marines.

A part of the philosophy of Shield Group “Preparedness, mitigation and smart security measures will be the only way to decrease real risk,” is evident in the efforts of the company in bringing Israeli experts in anti-terrorism and mass response to lecture in Aruba. “Aruba is not considered a target in any way, but we feel it is strategically located for the personnel of various government agencies and NGO security companies from the surrounding region to attend and benefit from the expertise of the Israelis. All islands and resort destinations have the security and safety of their visitors as a constant priority.”

Prior to Dompig’s official retirement and the opening of Shield Group, he spent two months in Israel, learning from, in his opinion, “the best.” “It was indeed a revelation,” he reveals, “and I knew I had to bring these people to Aruba to educate all governments, companies and individuals in the area to the techniques they have developed.” Some of the experts are staff of a group called “The Institute of Terror Research and Response” (ITRR,) located in Israel and with a branch in Philadelphia. These are the people that train Homeland Security in the U.S., and Dompig reports he was particularly impressed with their “subtle” approach of preparedness, using current intelligence and information, rather than “in your face” techniques that can be intimidating to the individuals that are being protected.

The daily programs will commence at 7:30 AM through 5:00 PM with continental breakfast and lunch included. The program, titled “The Israeli Experience” includes not only pre-event preparation, but also event response, including mass trauma response techniques from Chaim Rafalowski, Operations Chief of the Israeli Red Shield, and Professor Shmuel Shapira, MD, Deputy Director of the Hadassah Medical System in Jerusalem. Additional speakers regarding the preparedness lectures are Raanan Tal, (retired) of the Old City of Jerusalem Israel National Police, Aaron Richman and Dov Swerling of ITRR Israel and Scott Fitzsimmons of ITRR USA, amongst others. The final day will end with an expert panel discussion and Q & A.

“Destinations throughout the Caribbean are taking notice of world events and “beefing up” their security and personnel to be prepared for any scenario,” observed Dompig, “They all have their concerns. “Preparing” means you have to train people, and you have to do drills. We have also taken the step of carefully screening all applicants to the conference for legitimacy. The people at Homeland Security were very pleased with this. Each island owes it to their citizens and their guests to be prepared.”

Cost and registration information for the International Counter Terrorism Symposium can be found at their website www.shieldgroupworldwide.com/ or by calling telephone number (297) 588-2093.